

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 CAB-09 COME-00

DOTE-00 FAA-00 /105 R

DRAFTED BY EB/AN: RCPARR/EUR/CE:NCLEDSKY:RF

APPROVED BY EB: MHSTYLES

EUR/CE:SGEORGE

EUR/CE:GRUECKERT

EUR/NE:CFLOYD

----- 013926

O R 022252Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 090803

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, GW

SUBJECT: BERLIN AIR SERVICES

REF: A. BONN 6840

B. STATE 2659 (NOTAL)

1. DEPARTMENT IS MOST RELUCTANT, GIVEN OUR RECENT EXPERIENCES WITH UK ON BERLIN AVIATION SUBJECTS, TO ACCEPT LATEST PRECONDITIONS BRITISH HAVE TABLED. ANY NEW COMMITMENT TO DISCUSS SUCH SUBJECTS AS BERLIN AVIATION "GOALS", WHICH FOR ALL THREE POWERS SHOULD SIMPLY BE THE MAXIMIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL AIR SERVICE TO THE CITY, OR POSSIBLE BERLIN AVIATION PROBLEMS (WHICH ARE ALMOST ALWAYS GENERATED
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BY THE BRITISH), SEEMS TO US OPEN INVITATION FOR FUTURE

DIFFICULTIES. MOREOVER, THE SUGAR-COATED PRINCIPLES WHICH THE BRITISH HAVE PUT FORWARD, SUCH AS "EQUITABLE AND FAIR DIVISION OF OPPORTUNITIES", SEEM AN ALMOST TRANS-PARENT MASK FOR PENALIZING PAN AMERICAN'S INITIATIVES BY ALLOWING BRITISH AIRWAYS TO GET EQUIVALENT IF UNDESERVED CONCESSIONS.

2. HOWEVER, WE REALIZE BRITISH CONCURRENCE IS NECESSARY TO BEGIN THE NEW PANAM SERVICE BETWEEN BERLIN AND COPENHAGEN, AND THEREFORE RECOGNIZE THAT WE MUST ACCOMMODATE BRITISH POSITION IN SOME WAY. WE SHOULD DO SO WITH OUR EYES OPEN, HOWEVER, AND SECURE THE BEST TRADE-OFF WE CAN IN ADVANCE.

3. ACCORDINGLY, EMBASSY BONN IS AUTHORIZED TO PROPOSE TO UK AND FRENCH CIVIL AIR ATTACHE IMMEDIATE AMENDMENT OF PANAM'S PERMIT SO THAT THE AIRLINE CAN TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO INAUGURATE BERLIN/COPENHAGEN FLIGHTS AS SCHEDULED ON MAY 22. IF OUR ALLIES ARE PREPARED TO DO THIS PROMPTLY, EMBASSY IS AUTHORIZED TO AGREE TO FURTHER DISCUSSION OF BERLIN AVIATION ISSUES, EMPHASIZING THAT IN DOING SO, OUR POSITION WILL REMAIN AS FOLLOWS: (A) WE FAVOR AS MANY INTERNATIONAL SERVICES TO AND FROM BERLIN AS POSSIBLE, RECOGNIZING THAT IT MAY PROVE NECESSARY TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF SERVICES TO ANY SINGLE DESTINATION SO AS TO MAKE THE FLIGHTS COMMERCIALY VIABLE; (B) WE FAVOR THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL THREE ALLIED AIRLINES IN INTERNATIONAL AIR SERVICE TO AND FROM WEST BERLIN. WE WILL BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER FAVORABLY ALL APPLICATIONS BY BA OR AIR FRANCE FOR SUCH INTERNATIONAL SERVICES; (C) WHILE WE BELIEVE A FAIR AND EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF OPPORTUNITIES IS AN ADMIRABLE GOAL, THE NECESSITY OF OBTAINING THIRD-COUNTRY APPROVAL AS WELL AS OTHER TECHNICAL PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH SUCH SERVICES MAKE IT DIFFICULT AND IN OUR VIEW INADVISABLE TO SET AGREED LIMITS OR DIVIDE SUCH SERVICES IN ADVANCE AMONG THE THREE ALLIES CARRIERS; AND (D) ANY DISCUSSION OF PROBLEMS RELATED TO BERLIN'S INTERNATIONAL AIR SERVICE SHOULD BE HELD IN A POLITICALLY-SENSITIVE FORUM SUCH AS THE BONN GROUP. WE CONSIDER FRG PARTICIPATION IN ANY SUCH DISCUSSIONS CONFIDENTIAL

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ESSENTIAL.

4. AS EMBASSY IS AWARE, PANAM IS MOST ANXIOUS TO BEGIN PROMOTING ITS NEW COPENHAGEN SERVICE. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION WITH UK AND FRENCH AS SUGGESTED ABOVE, EMBASSY SHOULD INDICATE WHETHER, IN ITS VIEW, IT WOULD BE REASONABLE FOR PANAM TO PROCEED WITH SUCH PROMOTION AT THIS STAGE. RUSH

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